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EXAMINER	
KHOO, FOONG LIN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2664	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/068,394	SANTOS, RICHARD A.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	F. Lin Khoo	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 February 2002*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/05/2002*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: It is dependent on itself. Perhaps it is dependent on claim 14 which cites "calendaring program". Claim 15 cites "said calendaring program" and therefore has to be dependent on claim 14 to avoid lack of antecedent basis. Hence, claim 15 will be treated as dependent on claim 14 in this office action.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 29 is objected to because of the following informalities: It is dependent on itself. Perhaps it is dependent on claim 28 which cites "setting up said conference call". Claim 29 cites "said step of setting up said conference call" and therefore has to be dependent on claim 28 to avoid lack of antecedent basis. Hence, claim 29 will be treated as dependent on claim 28 in this office action.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-11, 13, 17-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wellner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,767).

Regarding Claim 1, Wellner et al. discloses a conference call system comprising: a conference bridge configured to conference together communications between conference participants into a conference call (Fig. 1, elements 39, 43, 41 together are associated with a conference bridge); see col 1, line 60 through col 2, line 12; col 4, lines 30-50); and

a conference monitor configured to allow a host to dynamically create a web page to provide an indication of ones of said conference participants who have joined said conference call (see col 4, lines 26-29; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9. The conference monitor is the web browser (web page) which is a Java applet (mini-application) 31 that provides an active talker display 33. Also included within the web browser is an HTML participant list 35. An additional feature of this applet is that it also displays the names of participants who have recently joined and/or recently dropped).

Regarding Claim 2, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising a web server configured to host said web page for access by one or more of said conference participants (Fig. 1, element 37; see col 2, lines 13- 16; col 2, lines 41- 47; col 4, lines 35-50).

Regarding Claim 3, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference bridge is further configured to identify said participants who have joined said conference call to said conference monitor whereby said indication of ones of said participants who have joined said conference call is dynamically updated (col 5, lines 41 –66; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9; col 10, lines 29-31. The java applet displays the names of participants who have recently joined and/or recently dropped).

Regarding Claim 4, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference bridge is responsive to Automatic Number Identification information to identify participants who have joined said conference call (col 7, lines 26-42. The caller id is associated with the Automatic Number Identification).

Regarding Claim 5, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference call monitor is configured to monitor said conference call and identify participants who have joined said conference call (Fig. 4. col 5, lines 41 –66; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9; col 10, lines 29-31).

Regarding Claim 6, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference call monitor includes a speech recognition processor configured to detect spoken identification information of said conference participants (Fig. 2, element 83, col 5, lines 38-40; col 9, line 23 through col 10, line 2. Detecting the active talker on the conference bridge is

done on the conference bridge DSP (digital signal processor) which is displayed on the conference control page (element 83) and this is associated with a speech recognition processor configured to detect spoken identification information of said conference participants).

Regarding Claim 7, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising a conference call scheduler configured to reserve said conference bridge, advise said conference participants of details for accessing said conference bridge, and identify to said conference monitor identities of said conference participants (Fig. 2, col 4, line 65 through col 5, line 37. Fig. 2, elements 71, 75, 77 and 83 are associated with a conference call scheduler configured to reserve conference bridge, advise conference participants of details for accessing conference bridge, and identify to conference monitor identities of conference participants).

Regarding Claim 8, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference bridge includes a plurality of ports configured to communicate with respective ones of said conference participants (see col 1, line 60 through col 2, line 12).

Regarding Claim 9, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising an electronic messaging system configured to generate messages to said conference participants including a uniform resource locator address of said web page (Fig. 2, col 5, lines 9-15; col 8, lines 45-67; col 10, lines 26-29. The e-mail message 75 is associated with an

electronic messaging system configured to generate messages to conference participants including a uniform resource locator address of web page (URL http://www.spiderphone.com/21384319)).

Regarding Claim 10, Wellner et al. discloses further including an interface to a common channel signaling system configured to receive identifying information of said participants who have joined said conference call (col 11, lines 39-65. When using a telephone, the DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) signaling or when using the ISDN, the D-Channel which carries control and signaling information is associated with common channel signaling system configured to receive identifying information of participants who have joined conference call).

Regarding Claim 11, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference monitor includes an operator interface configured to receive designations of said participants who have joined said conference call (Fig. 2, element 77 (screen display), Fig. 4 and Fig. 5; col 5, lines 16-37; col 10, lines 23-42. Fig. 2, element 77 (screen display), Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 are all associated with an operator interface configured to receive designations of participants who have joined conference call).

Regarding Claim 13, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference bridge is further configured to perform voice recognition based identification of a speaker (Fig. 2, element 83, col 5, lines 38-40; col 9, line 23 through col 10, line 2. Detecting the active

talker on the conference bridge is done on the conference bridge DSP (digital signal processor) which is displayed on the conference control page (element 83) and this is associated with conference bridge configured to perform voice recognition based identification of a speaker).

Regarding Claim 17, Wellner et al. discloses a method of conducting a conference call comprising the steps of: conferencing together communications between conference participants to form a conference call (Fig. 1, see col 1, line 60 through col 2, line 12; col 4, lines 30-50);

creating a web page to provide said indication of ones of said participants who have joined said conference call (see col 4, lines 26-29; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9. The web browser (web page) is a Java applet (mini-application) 31 that provides an active talker display 33. Also included within the web browser is an HTML participant list 35. An additional feature of this applet is that it also displays the names of participants who have recently joined and/or recently dropped); and

updating said web page as additional ones of said participants join said conference call (see col 4, lines 26-29; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9. The web browser (web page) is a Java applet (mini-application) 31 that provides an active talker display 33. Also included within the web browser is an HTML participant list 35. As new participants join the conference call and other participants hang up, the table of names maintained by the talker applet is updated. An additional feature of this applet is that it also displays the names of participants who have recently joined and/or recently dropped).

Regarding Claim 18, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising a step of hosting said web page for access by one or more of said participants (Fig. 1, element 37; see col 2, lines 13- 16; col 2, lines 41- 47; col 4, lines 35-50. An HTTP path from Java applet 31 in customer equipment 15 over the Internet to web server is associated with hosting the web page or web browser).

Regarding Claim 19, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising a step of decoding Automatic Number Identification information and, in response, identifying said participants who have joined said conference call (col 7, lines 26-42. The caller id is associated with the Automatic Number Identification).

Regarding Claim 20, Wellner et al. discloses comprising a step of monitoring said conference call and, in response, identifying said participants who have joined said conference call (Fig. 4. col 5, lines 41 –66; col 6, line 61 through col 7, line 9; col 10, lines 29-31).

Regarding Claim 21, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said step of monitoring includes a step of recognizing speech so as to detect spoken identification information of said conference participants (Fig. 2, element 83, col 5, lines 38-40; col 9, line 23 through col 10, line 2. Detecting the active talker on the conference bridge is done on the conference bridge DSP (digital signal processor) which is displayed on the

conference control page (element 83) and this is associated with step of recognizing speech so as to detect spoken identification information of said conference participants).

Regarding Claim 22, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising the steps of reserving said conference bridge, advising said conference participants of details for accessing said conference bridge, and identifying identities of said conference participants (Fig. 2, col 4, line 65 through col 5, line 37. Fig. 2, elements 71, 75, 77 and 83 are associated with reserving conference bridge, advising conference participants of details for accessing conference bridge, and identifying identities of conference participants).

Regarding Claim 23, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference bridge includes a plurality of ports configured to communicate with respective ones of said conference participants (see col 1, line 60 through col 2, line 12).

Regarding Claim 24, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising the steps of an electronic messaging system configured to generate messages to said conference participants, said messages including a uniform resource locator address of said web page (Fig. 2, col 5, lines 9-15; col 8, lines 45-67; col 10, lines 26-29. The e-mail message 75 is associated with steps of an electronic messaging system configured to

generate messages to conference participants, messages including a uniform resource locator address of said web page (URL http://www.spiderphone.com/21384319)).

Regarding Claim 25, Wellner et al. discloses further including an interface to a common channel signaling system configured to receive identifying information of said participants who have joined said conference call (col 11, lines 39-65. When using a telephone, the DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) signaling or when using the ISDN, the D-Channel which carries control and signaling information is associated with common channel signaling system configured to receive identifying information of participants who have joined conference call).

Regarding Claim 26, Wellner et al. discloses wherein said conference monitor includes an operator interface configured to receive designations of said participants who have joined said conference call (Fig. 2, element 77 (screen display), Fig. 4 and Fig. 5; col 5, lines 16-37; col 10, lines 23-42. Fig. 2, element 77 (screen display), Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 are all associated with an operator interface configured to receive designations of participants who have joined conference call).

Regarding Claim 27, Wellner et al. discloses further comprising a step of performing voice recognition based identification of one of said conference participants (Fig. 2, element 83, col 5, lines 38-40; col 9, line 23 through col 10, line 2. Detecting the active talker on the conference bridge is done on the conference bridge DSP (digital

signal processor) which is displayed on the conference control page (element 83) and this is associated with voice recognition based identification of one of conference participants).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,767) in view of Grunsted et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,192,123).

Regarding Claim 12, Wellner et al. discloses conference bridge configured to conference together communications between conference participants into a conference call; and a conference monitor configured to allow a host to dynamically create a web page to provide an indication of ones of said conference participants who have joined said conference call. Wellner et al. does not disclose further comprising a database of images corresponding to each of said conference participants, said conference monitor configured associate said images with said conference participants for incorporation by said web server into said web page. Grunsted et al. discloses a database of images corresponding to each of said conference participants, said

conference monitor configured associate said images with said conference participants for incorporation by said web server into said web page (Fig. 2, element 230 shows a database. Fig. 8 include the steps performed by web server 210 in response to a customer request to use the stored phone book (step 650 of FIG. 6). First, web server 210 accesses database 230 to retrieve the stored information for the customer's phone book (step 810), retrieves a stored web page used to display phone book information, and returns the phone book web page to the customer's browser (step 815). Phone book information includes a list of telephone numbers and names (col 7, lines 24-32). The telephone number and names in the phone book can be associated with images of conference participants for incorporation by web server into web page similar to a method use by a catalog company to display an image of an article offered by the catalog company on a web page (col 5, lines 6-18)). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the image feature as taught by Grunsted et al. into the system of Wellner et al. to provide enhanced telephone services through the Internet by connecting a telephone service system to the Internet (col 3, lines 48-50).

6. Claims 14, 15,16, 28, 29, 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wellner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,628,767) in view of Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352).

Regarding Claim 14, Wellner et al. discloses conference bridge configured to conference together communications between conference participants into a

conference call; and a conference monitor configured to allow a host to dynamically create a web page to provide an indication of ones of said conference participants who have joined said conference call. Wellner et al. does not disclose further comprising a calendaring program configured to setup a conference call. Dailey et al. discloses a calendaring program configured to setup a conference call (Fig. 3, Fig. 4; col 11, lines 5-62. Step 1200, 1202 and 1204 in Fig. 3 are associated with setup of conference call using the appointment calendar maintained in the personal information manager). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the calendar program as taught by Dailey et al. into the system of Wellner et al. to automate the process of connecting the meeting host's computer and each meeting participant's computer together in a virtual meeting over a communication network at the scheduled time of the virtual meeting (col 2, lines 61-65).

Regarding Claim 15, Wellner et al. and Dailey et al. disclose all the limitations of claim 14. Further Dailey et al. discloses wherein said calendaring program is further configured to initiate said conference bridge (Fig. 3, Fig. 4; col 11, line 63 through col 12, line 2; col 14, lines 25-39. Step 1206 is associated with automatically connecting the meeting attendee's computers 1000 and 1004a-c to establish a virtual meeting at or near the scheduled time and date of the virtual meeting using the appointment calendar in the personal information manager. The scheduling of an on-line meeting is initiated by selected (checking) an on-line meeting check-box 1430).

Regarding Claim 16, Wellner et al. discloses conference bridge configured to conference together communications between conference participants into a conference call; and a conference monitor configured to allow a host to dynamically create a web page to provide an indication of ones of said conference participants who have joined said conference call. Wellner et al. does not disclose further comprising a messaging program in communication with said conference monitor and configured to a reminder message to an absent invitee. Dailey et al. discloses a messaging program in communication with said conference monitor and configured to a reminder message to an absent invitee (col 5, lines 28-43; col 12, lines 28-56). The meeting reminder shown in Figs 10A-C is equivalent to a messaging program in communication with conference monitor and can be configured as a reminder message to an absent invitee). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the meeting reminder feature as taught by Dailey et al. into the system of Wellner et al. to remind the participants of the scheduled virtual meeting (col 5, lines 15-24).

Regarding Claim 28, Wellner et al. discloses the steps of: conferencing together communications between conference participants to form a conference call; creating a web page to provide said indication of ones of said participants who have joined said conference call; and updating said web page as additional ones of said participants join said conference call. Wellner et al. does not disclose further comprising the steps of calendaring said conference call and, in response, automatically setting up said conference call. Dailey et al. discloses comprising the steps of calendaring said

conference call and, in response, automatically setting up said conference call (Fig. 3, Fig. 4; col 11, lines 5- 62. Step 1200, 1202 and 1204 in Fig. 3 are associated with setup of conference call using the appointment calendar maintained in the personal information manager. Fig. 3, Fig. 4; col 11, line 63 through col 12, line 2; col 14, lines 25-39. Step 1206 is associated with automatically connecting the meeting attendee's computers 1000 and 1004a-c to establish a virtual meeting at or near the scheduled time and date of the virtual meeting using the appointment calendar in the personal information manager). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the calendar program as taught by Dailey et al. into the system of Wellner et al. to automate the process of connecting the meeting host's computer and each meeting participant's computer together in a virtual meeting over a communication network at the scheduled time of the virtual meeting (col 2, lines 61-65).

Regarding Claim 29, Wellner et al. and Dailey et al. disclose all the limitations of claim 28. Further Dailey et al. discloses wherein said step of setting up said conference call includes initiating a conference bridge. Fig. 3, Fig. 4; col 11, line 63 through col 12, line 2; col 14, lines 25-39. Step 1206 is associated with automatically connecting the meeting attendee's computers 1000 and 1004a-c to establish a virtual meeting at or near the scheduled time and date of the virtual meeting using the appointment calendar in the personal information manager. The scheduling of an on-line meeting is initiated by selected (checking) an on-line meeting check-box 1430).

Regarding Claim 30, Wellner et al. discloses the steps of: conferencing together communications between conference participants to form a conference call; creating a web page to provide said indication of ones of said participants who have joined said conference call; and updating said web page as additional ones of said participants join said conference call. Wellner et al. does not disclose sending a reminder message to said absent invitee. Dailey et al. discloses sending a reminder message (col 5, lines 28-43; col 12, lines 28-56). The meeting reminder shown in Figs 10A-C is equivalent to sending a reminder message to any invitee (identified participants who have joined the conference and absent participants). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add the meeting reminder feature as taught by Dailey et al. into the system of Wellner et al. to remind the participants of the scheduled virtual meeting (col 5, lines 15-24).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,995,608 to Detampel, Jr et al. relates to an on-demand teleconferencing system and method for setting up an on-demand conference call in a telecommunications system having the Advanced Information Network (AIN) architecture with system signaling the number 7 (SS7) and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

U. S. Patent No. 6,563,914 to Sammon et al. relates to a method and system which utilize a graphical user interface to identify potential participants in a teleconference, specify a user-controlled dial-up/hang-up order, and monitor the status of participants to the teleconference. The method and system receive conference commands from a World Wide Web (WWW) browser and translate the conference commands into commands that control a telephone bridge.

U.S. Patent No. 6,275,575 to Wu relates to remotely accessing a multi-point cross-platform telephone conferencing system for the purpose of coordinating and initiating multi-point telephone conference meetings utilizing intelligent agents and network based software application modules (i.e., contact lists, email, calendars, etc.) to facilitate the setup and initiation of telephone conference calls from locations remote to the cross-platform teleconferencing system.

U.S. Patent No. 6,636,888 relates to an integrated environment for scheduling a presentation broadcast that allows a user to seamlessly schedule, make changes, replace, and reschedule a presentation broadcast from within a presentation design application program.

U.S. Patent No. 6,411,605 relates to administering access to shared resources such as bridge hardware for establishing conference calls in a telecommunications network and, in particular, to a scheduler that can be accessed by users via a communications network such as the Internet to schedule conference calls.

The above prior art are cited to further show the same field of endeavor with respect to the applicant's claimed invention.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to F. Lin Khoo whose telephone number is 571-272-5508. The examiner can normally be reached on flex time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WELLINGTON CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER